What do you think would be written on my note for the Western Wall?

Ilan Wolfferman was born to Tonya and Eliezer, Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Israel. Ilan grew up in Ramat Gan and Be'er Sheva. When the time came to serve in the Israeli army, he chose to join the Israeli Air Force and serve as a pilot. He changed his surname to Ramon because he loved the Ramon Crater. Ilan took part in important military missions and never hesitated when he was asked to do so. In 1997, Ilan was chosen to be the first Israeli astronaut. He moved to the USA with his family and trained and learned extensively. Ilan missed Israel, his family, friends and the views of Israel and Jerusalem, but continued training because he knew that at the end of all his efforts he would make it to space, representing the State of Israel. In 2003 Ramon flew out to space with his crew. They carried out many scientific experiments there. Ilan took objects with Jewish significance into space with him, such as a 2000-year-old coin that had been found in Jerusalem, a child's drawing and a Bible. On their return to Earth, the spaceship disintegrated and all crew members were killed, including Ilan.

What could help me?

What do I find hard?

Who am I?

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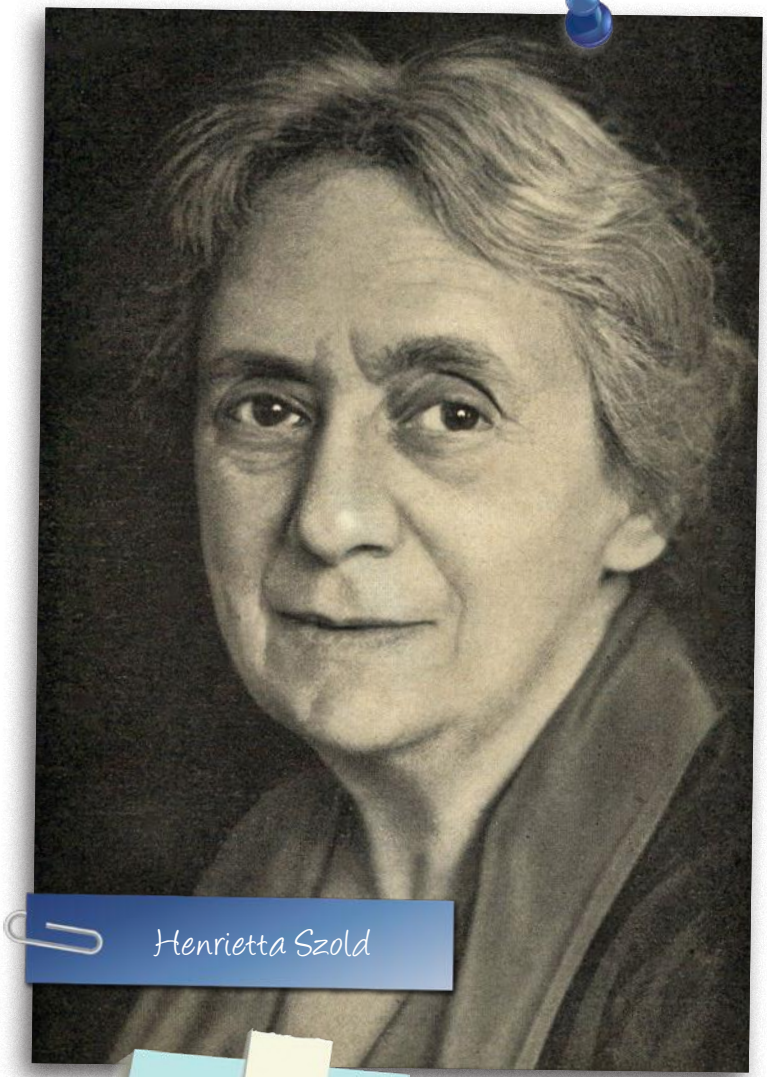

Henrietta Szold

Henrietta Szold came from the USA to Jerusalem a hundred years ago. While walking around the city, she was horrified to see how many sickly people were walking around, especially little children. She realized how dirty the city was and how no-one was concerned with keeping it clean. She came up with an idea of how to help. She opened clinics with nurses who would check the babies, taught the parents how to care for their babies, and helped the families in the city. In the beginning, no-one wanted to come to the clinics and parents were suspicious of the welfare clinics (that were called "Tipat Chalav" in Hebrew, literally meaning "A Drop of Milk"). Henrietta wasn't put off and started giving out bottles of fresh, healthy milk for children. Slowly but surely, parents started coming to the wellness clinics and the sanitation in Jerusalem started improving.

מה יכול לעזור לי?

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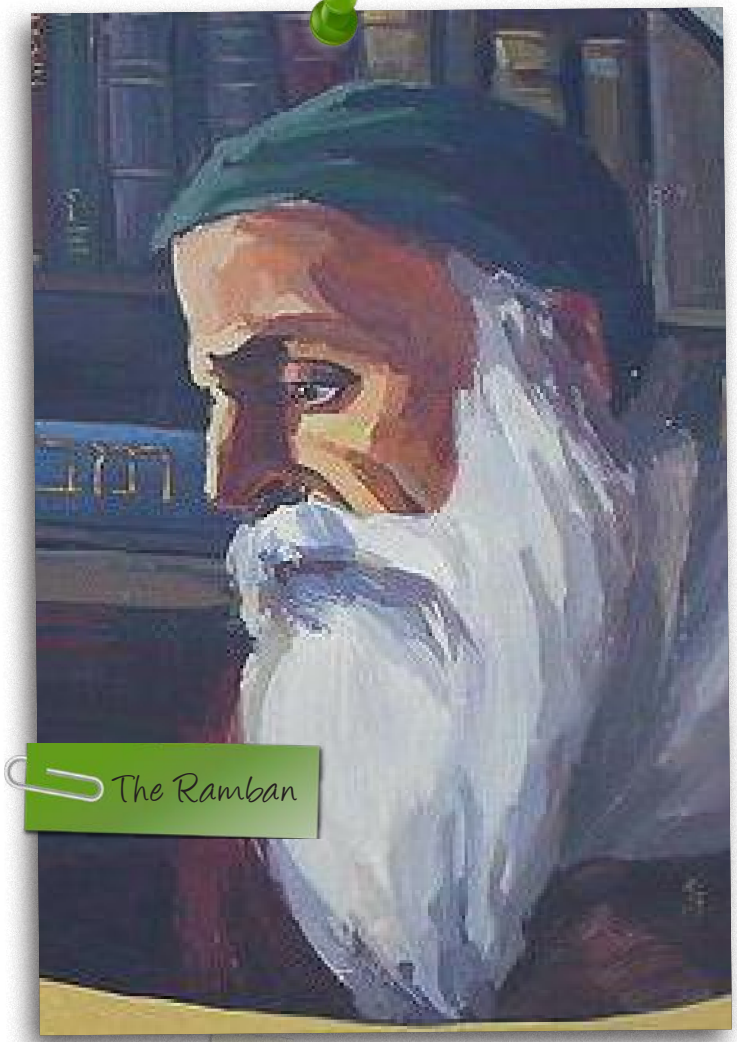

The Ramban was a great Rabbi, doctor and poet. He came to Jerusalem alone, eight hundred years ago, and found the city lying in ruins. The city was ruled by Muslim Mamelukes. There was no synagogue or any kind of Jewish life in the city. The Ramban wanted to reestablish the Jewish community in Jerusalem but where could he find the people to do so when there were only two Jews living there? With a great amount of effort the Ramban brought ten people to the city, as well as a Sefer Torah. He restored the synagogue that had existed there before and the synagogue, called The Ramban Synagogue, stands until today.

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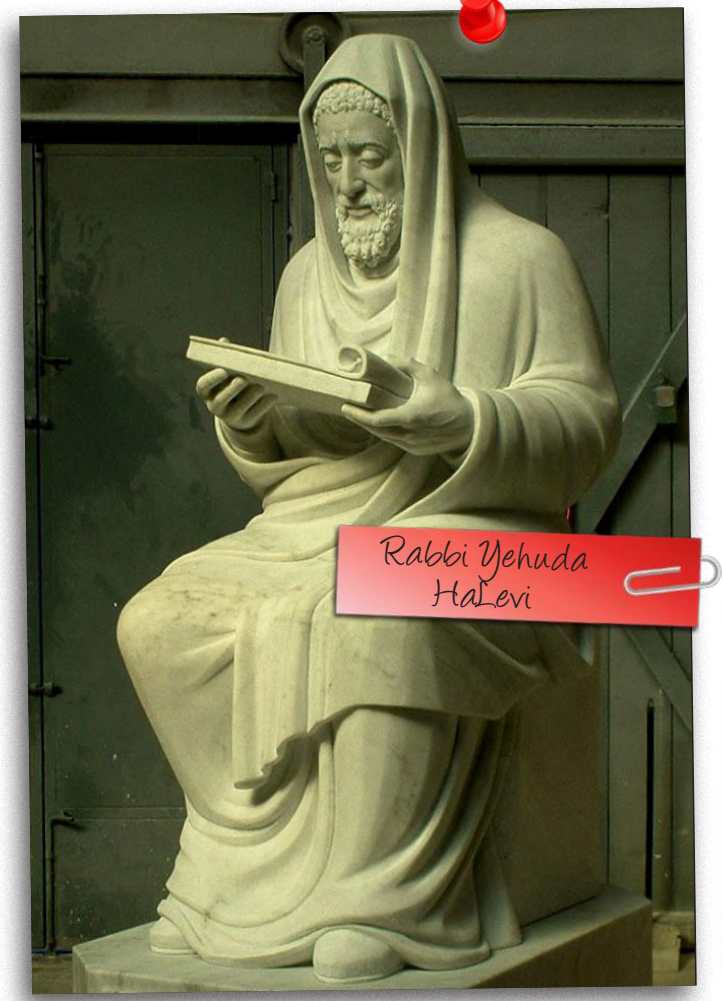

Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi lived in Spain in 1100. He wrote songs about Jerusalem in which expressed his deep yearnings for the city. He wrote, "My heart is in the east and I am in the uttermost west"- I am in Spain but my heart is in Jerusalem. After he worked extremely hard to save money, Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi succeeded in making the long journey to Jerusalem. First he made his way to Cairo, Egypt and from there travelled to the land of Israel. He made it to the holy city but legend has it that at the entrance to the Western Wall, as he stood there filled with excitement and deep joy, a local horseman ran over him and Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi tragically died.

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Judith Montefiore

Judith Montefiore was born in England to a wealthy, Jewish family. She married Moses Montefiore and together they were concerned with helping and supporting Jewish people from all around the world. 150 years ago, it was difficult to reach the small city of Jerusalem that lay in ruins. Judith decided to make the long and difficult journey to Jerusalem in order to help the poor people living there. Judith made a great effort to learn Hebrew, spoke at length with the men and women of Jerusalem, helped establish a hospital and also helped establish the first neighborhood, Mishkenot Shaananim, outside of the Old City with her husband. Judith wanted to help the Jewish people of Jerusalem who suffered from over-crowding, dirtiness and contagious illnesses. She understood that the way to improve their living conditions was to build a new, roomy, clean neighborhood. The poor people of Jerusalem were afraid to live in the new neighborhood and it was hard to persuade them to move there. In the end though, people moved to the neighborhood in droves because they realized that it was the best possible solution available to them.

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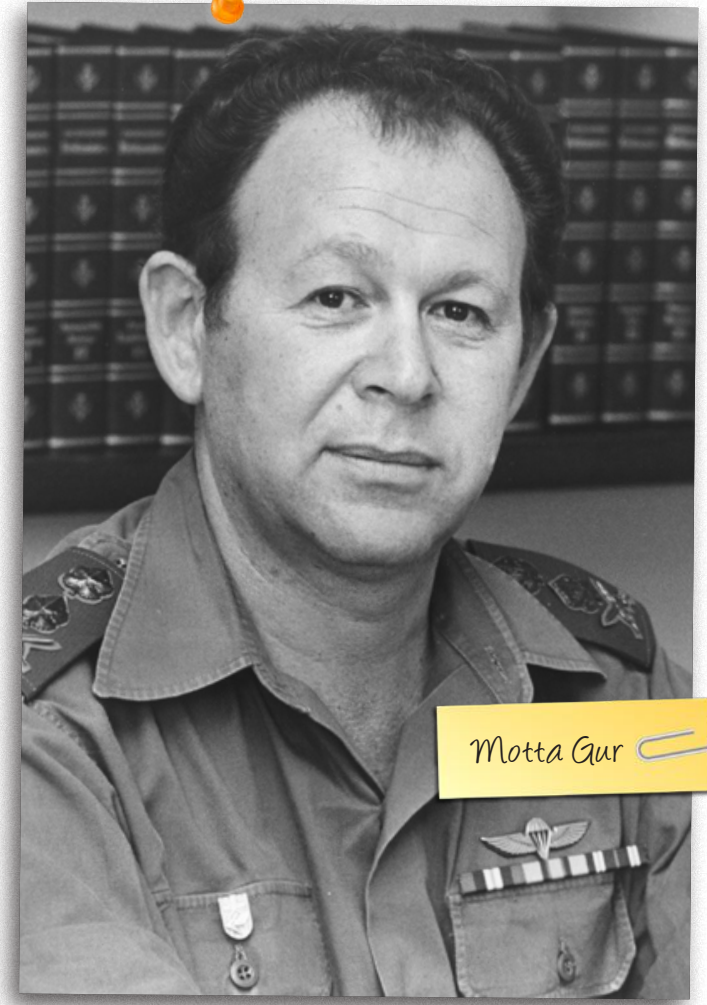

Motta Gur was the commander of the Paratroopers Brigade in the Six-Day War, and went on to become the Chief of Staff. During the Six-Day War, Motta Gur led his soldiers in surrounding the walls of Jerusalem. He was concerned about the intense attack they faced from the Jordanians. The paratroopers succeeded in progressing and made their way to Mount Scopus. Motta realized that they were very close to the Western Wall and the Old City of Jerusalem and wondered whether they should try and enter in order to make their way to the Western Wall. He dearly wanted to make it to the Western Wall. Motta Gur said to his driver, "Go, Ben Tzur!" and together they led the soldiers through Lions' Gate and continued on until they reached the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

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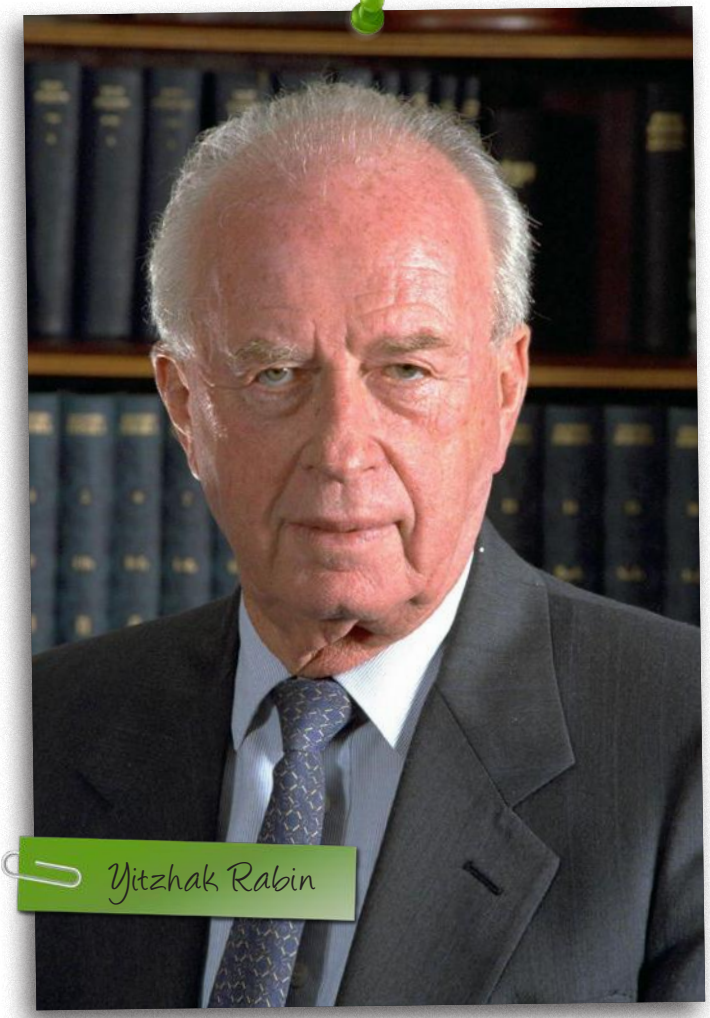

Yitzhak Rabin was born in Jerusalem during the British Mandate. He grew up and became a commander in the Israeli army. In the War of Independence, Jerusalem was cut off from supplies and didn't have access to food. Yitzhak realized that he and his soldiers would have to make sure that the road leading up to Jerusalem was kept clear so that the convoys with the food could make their way through to the people in the city. Yitzhak tried to keep the passageway safe in a variety of ways but cars were being constantly attacked as they made their way to Jerusalem. Yitzhak realized that they needed to try something else so he led his soldiers in breaking through and creating a new passageway through which food could be brought to the besieged city of Jerusalem.

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Geulah Cohen was born in Tel Aviv during the British Mandate. Already as a child, Geulah asked questions such as, "Why isn't there a Jewish State?" and, "Why have the British not kept their promise to establish a national homeland for the Jews?" When Geulah turned eighteen, she joined the Lehi movement which fought against the British and aimed to throw them out of Jerusalem. Geulah was chosen to be the broadcaster for the underground Lehi station. As the broadcaster, she spoke about the state that was to be established in the land of Israel. Geulah was arrested by the British authorities and was sent to jail, but she didn't give up and tried many times to escape. She knew that she needed to break free and continue to fight for the establishment of the state. Eventually, Geulah succeeded in escaping and after the State was established she served as a member of the Knesset. She loved Jerusalem with all her heart and even led the passing of legislation for sovereignty over Jerusalem.

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Dona Gracia was born in Portugal after the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. Gracia and her family lived as Anusim – living Jewish lives in secret and as practicing Christians externally. During these years the authorities searched for Jews and whoever was caught was arrested and punished. Dona Gracia married Francisco Mendes-Nasi and they were an extremely wealthy couple. Dona Gracia was always searching for ways to help Jews in Spain. Despite having converted to Christianity externally, she used her money to help release Jewish captives, protect Anusim from the authorities and Church, and donate to building Yeshivas, Synagogues, and hospitals. She searched for a place where Jews could live in peacefully because no matter where they would settle, they would be unwanted and subjected to humiliation. She asked to purchase Jerusalem but her request wasn't approved. In the end, she purchased land in Tiberias, and was in touch with the Ottoman Sultan to ensure that Jewish people could live peacefully in the land of Israel.

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Queen Shlomtzion

Two-thousand years ago there was a queen called Queen Shlomtzion who lived during the the time of the Temple in Jerusalem. Queen Shlomtzion noticed that there were different groups of people living in Jerusalem who argued with one another. Shlomtzion believed that Jerusalem is a city of peace and therefore wanted there to be peace in the city. She wanted the people of Jerusalem to love and respect one another. Shlomtzion listened to the voices of the people and got the leaders involved in taking action. The people loved and respected the queen and during her reign there was indeed peace in the city.

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